



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

April 2, 2009
Subject: **Vegetation Management & Arborist Services**
PINS: N/A
Location: Statewide by Region
Bid Amendment No. 2

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The following questions have been received:

Question: What are the required amounts of insurance coverage (general liability, workers comp & vehicle)?

Response: Contractors are required to carry at least the minimum coverage as required by state law.

Question: In the centerline mile price; do I have to cover an area greater than 20 feet in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5 and greater than 40 feet in Region 3 if the existing maintenance conditions call for it?

Response: No. The outer limits of 20 feet from edge of pavement in regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 and 40 feet from edge of pavement in region 3 are the farthest distance that we will expect the spraying from the truck to be. This will be dictated by existing maintenance conditions and the extent of the right of way. In other words, the clear zone may be less than this limit. In many cases where the right of way limit may be 20 feet from edge of pavement there is a tree line closer to the road. We do not expect a contractor to routinely spray into such a wooded area in order to reach the limit of the right of way. Common sense prevails in such circumstances.

If there is right of way beyond the 20 foot or 40 foot requirements the department may ask the contractor to spray. This would fall into the Backpack Herbicide Application as described in the contract as a 2 man crew, truck, 2 backpack hand pumped sprayers and the contractor would be compensated by the hour. The department may request a third applicator as described in Cost for 3rd applicator "with hand pumped sprayer to work with 2 man Backpack crew, Bucket truck crew, or Chainsaw crew" or for a Cost for 3rd man "with chainsaw as ground man for Bucket Truck crew, Chainsaw crew, or Backpack Herbicide crew" depending on the work to be done. In other words we may decide that we need a 3 person spray crew or that one individual will cut brush while 2 people spray.



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Question: Do all areas within 150 feet of parked vehicles and within 100 feet of pastures, with animals present that can't be treated mechanically, have to be treated with a low volume treatment?

Response: Typically, we may expect some hand spraying to take place within the buffers for water when the water is a stream, river, pond, or lake. The decision to spray within the buffers described in the contract should be made only when there is a clear need such as maintaining site distance or controlling brush that is close to the road or directly behind guardrail for example. The department understands the sensitive nature of these areas and expects the contractor to exercise caution and discretion when determining whether or not to spray. In the case of parked vehicles it is not sensible to spray even by hand if people are present or if the treatment may present a risk to people when they return to their vehicle. Horses and cattle are at risk from hydrocyanic acid poisoning from wilting leaves of black cherry and red maple and all spraying is prohibited within 20 feet of pastures even if livestock are not present. You cannot spray mechanically within 100 feet of a pasture if livestock are present to avoid the risk of drift reaching the fence line where an animal could reach the wilting leaves. Again, a contractor is expected to make a conservative judgment and err on the side of caution. If there is a question or a doubt about whether or not to spray it would be best to not spray and ask the department for guidance.

To be clear, the contract also states that: "The contractor **shall not** apply herbicides in the following areas; within 150' of occupied buildings, homes, or playgrounds, within 100' of the boundary of organic farms, pedestrians, bicyclists, or picnic tables, within 20' of pastures, or within MaineDOT no-spray agreement areas." We do not want any herbicides applied in these buffers.

Question: Do all DWRs have to be turned in within 12 hours of application? Some areas of the state have no internet service available.

Response: As much as is feasible yes. The department will be flexible if there is no internet service. Reporting daily spray activities serves several important functions. It is a legal requirement so you must have a paper copy in your possession during the day. The department supplies the paper forms. Reporting using the department's internet reporting system records your records and the department then can see what was done the previous day without having to contact the contractor by phone. This helps the department in many ways including responding to the public about the program. Finally, contractors are paid for work when the DWR is approved by the region following inspection of the road. This usually occurs within 3 weeks of spraying. This process is driven by when the report is filed. Delay in reporting will result in delay in payment.

Question: What are the Maine DOT center line spray miles for District 3 and route numbers?
Example: 1000 center line miles would be 2000 spray miles (North, South, East, and West)?

Response: Each of the 5 regions has approximately the same amount of state road miles which is between 1200 to 1500 miles per region. The number used in the Schedule of Items e.g.- 1000 CLM for region 3 is only an estimate for the purposes of bidding. The actual miles sprayed will be determined once the bids have been awarded and will be based on the price per CLM in the low bid and the budget constraints of the region. Region 3 does try to spray most of the roads in the region each year. A CLM is both sides of the road. Therefore a CLM mile = 2 Shoulder Miles.

Question: Is the 40 foot herbicide spray zone from the edge of the pavement limited to route 2 or all state roads in District 3?

Response: Region 3 (Western Region) has state routes such as Route 2, 4, 6, 17, 26, 27, and 201 which may have 50 foot right of way from center line in locations along the road. Some roads may have slope easements which are maintained to allow sunlight to reach the road which reach back 40 feet or more. In these locations the department will require a spray width of up to 40 feet. However, this is not the case on all roads. The extent to which spraying will extend to 40 feet is dictated by the maintenance conditions and the extent of the right of way.

Question: Should the price submitted on the bid proposal sheet be for one year or four years? Was the 2005 bid for one year or for four years?

Response: The contract is for four years. After 1 year, it is renewable year to year upon mutual consent of the contractor and the department. Both parties have the right to terminate the contract after one year. Also, review question in Bid Amendment #1.

Question: Are the arborist crews bidding on 100 hours per year or specific arborist work? Was the 2007/2008 bid for arborist work completed?

Response: The bid will provide the basis for hourly rates. The region will request work on a task by task basis. Work was assigned in 2007-2008 on a task by task basis and completed. The regions have typically assigned work for at least 1 full day at a time. However, some projects may take longer and may span a week or more. The work is typically not of an emergency nature and can be scheduled with the department. The contractor must work with the region to schedule work so that the region can provide traffic control.

Question: What is the total bid for 2008 Vegetation Management Regional Spraying for Region 1?

Response: Contracts are for 4 years. Following is a breakdown by region of the Scheduled Items for the successful low bids and contract awards for 2005. Roadside Application was for 3 a man crew, spray truck and a shadow vehicle and Backpack Application was for a 2 man crew and truck.

Region 1

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	300	Center Line Mile	\$84.50	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	80	Hour	\$194.50	
TOTAL				\$40,910.00

Region 2

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
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Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	1200	Center Line Mile	\$84.50	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	50	Hour	\$194.50	
TOTAL				\$111,125.00

Region 3

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	1500	Center Line Mile	\$98.00	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	250	Hour	\$75.00	
TOTAL				\$165,750.00

Region 4

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	1450	Center Line Mile	\$75.00	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	120	Hour	\$70.00	
TOTAL				\$117,150.00

Region 5

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	1350	Center Line Mile	\$34.75	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	120	Hour	\$46.00	
TOTAL				\$52,432.50

NOTE: The contracts awarded in Regions 1 & 2 were terminated in 2005 due to non performance and the next lowest bidder was awarded the contracts and successfully completed the work during the 4 years of the contract. Following are the breakdowns for the next lowest bidders in regions 1 & 2.

Region 1:

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	300	Center Line Mile	\$144.00	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	80	Hour	\$80.00	
TOTAL				\$49,600.00

Region 2

Description	Quantity	Unit	Cost per Unit	Total Cost
Roadside Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	1200	Center Line Mile	\$98.00	
Backpack Herbicide Application (Department Supplies all Materials)	50	Hour	\$75.00	
TOTAL				\$121,350.00

Question: What is the total bid for 2008 Vegetation Management Backpack Spraying for Region 1?

Response: See tables in previous question.

Question: How many actual days were spent on the 2008 Roadside Vegetation Management Program in Region 1?

Response: The work took about 2 weeks to complete in 2008.

Question: For vegetation control, are the Interstate included with the state roads?

Response: No. The regions that have interstate are 1, 2, 4, and 5. The regions may request vegetation management spraying herbicide on the interstate and this would be paid under the Backpack Herbicide Application hourly rate. The interstate system including ramps is not included in the Roadside Herbicide Application work which is paid by Center Line Mile.

Question: When the units are given (i.e. 100 hours, or 50 centerline miles) are they going to be generally used at each call for service? Or are they meant to be for the year?

Response: The unit costs are used as the basis for payment. Actual assignments will occur throughout the year.

For Roadside Herbicide Application the department will have all the spray assets determined prior to the start of spraying and the assets will be given to the contractor to spray. The total center line miles are not yet determined in the regions but will be before the start of the season. We will know exactly how many centerline miles there are. This work will be paid by the Center Line Mile cost quoted and agreed to by the apparent low bidder signing and being awarded the contract.

For Backpack Herbicide Application, work will be assigned as tasks by the region and paid based on the hourly rates quoted by the contractor. The amount of this work (days, weeks) will be determined by the regions.

For Arborist Services work will be assigned as tasks by the region and paid based on the hourly rates quoted by the contractor. The amount of this work (days, weeks) will be determined by the regions.

The department may request different crew structures and the unit costs will be used to determine the cost for the different crew structures. E.g. - The department may request a Backpack

Herbicide Application crew (2 men, truck, 2 backpack sprayers) + a Chainsaw Operator to work as a 3 person crew. One person will cut brush. 2 people will apply herbicide as stump treatment and basal treatment. The cost quoted for a Backpack Herbicide Application crew + the cost quoted for the Chainsaw Operator are then added together and will be the basis for paying by the hour for that 3 person crew. This same method will be used for other potential variations of crew makeup.

NOTE: The Department always supplies all materials (herbicide, adjuvant) for use when performing herbicide application. The contractor will never have to supply or pay for these materials.

Question: When will the contractor be called for service? Historically, and/or generally, what is the demand for service (i.e. - weekly, monthly, per year?)

Response: The spray season may begin after the contract is awarded which could be as early as the beginning of May. Spray season ends by the end of November. Requests for arborist services may occur throughout the year.

Question: How many miles are there in each region for responsibility?

Response: Review answers to previous questions of a similar nature in earlier posted Bid Amendments. The number of miles sprayed historically has varied by region and also within a region year to year. We anticipated spraying a small number of miles in region 1 (100 to 250), region 2 (500 to 800), region 3 (1000), region 4 (400 to 500), region 5 (500 to 1000). These are not hard and fast but rather are given as an estimate of what we may be able to spray based on the current trends. We may reshape the program every year and there is never a guarantee of work. The amount of work performed will depend on many factors including the region strategy, budget, cost for work, and so on. Historically, the regions have maintained spray programs every year, but unanticipated emergencies that require shifting budgets may impact the actual amount of work performed in a given year.

Consider this information prior to submitting your bid on April 8, 2009.

Sincerely,



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Scott Bickford
Contracts & Specifications Engineer